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# *Underwater Dreams*

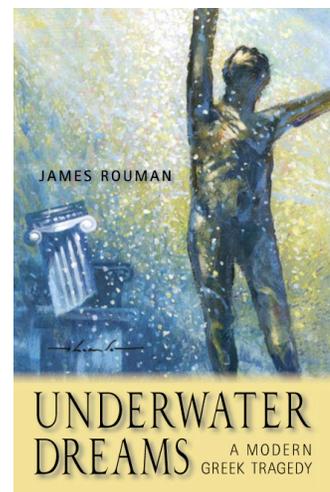
## *A Modern Greek Tragedy*

By Dr. James Rouman

- *Two generations of a Greek-American family*
- *Romance of anesthesiologist and nurse*
- *Themes of adoption, single parenthood, eldercare*

**Here is a fast-paced novel, with an unexpected ending, blending elements of drama and romance against a medical backdrop.** The story opens with the introduction of Lula, raised in a small village in Greece until given in marriage by her widowed mother to a near stranger, who takes her back to his home in Wisconsin. Framed by the birth and death of Lula, the plot unfolds with a diverse list of characters, including her son Leo, and his partner Martha Ravitch, a nurse unable to have children of her own.

**The reader accompanies the immigrant couple on their journey to America, to life in a small Midwestern town, and finally to the hospital world.** Issues of adoption, single parenthood, drug addiction, and eldercare are woven into a story.



### *Praise for Underwater Dreams*

"A moving account of a Greek girl's passage from village life in the Peloponnesus, to marriage and family in northern Wisconsin. A **perceptive look into a close knit Greek immigrant family's rise in America**, focusing on their middle son's life and unique experience as an anesthesiologist.

**Pride and solidarity of family are central to the novel**, sometimes at jarring odds with the surrounding American scene. There are unexpected twists to the story, and its startling ending catches one unawares."

—Melvin Bobick, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of New Hampshire

"Dr. James Rouman, **in the tradition of celebrated physician authors**, shares a marvelous story of the triumphs and tragedies of two generations of a Greek immigrant family as it pursues the American Dream. By creating a **densely rich tapestry**, the author transports one from early twentieth-century Greece, through Europe and on to the desolation of Northern Wisconsin. Elements of hope and sadness merge to create **an ending the reader will long remember.**"

—Paul Barash, M.D. Attending Anesthesiologist, Yale New Haven Hospital

### *About The Author*

James Rouman was born in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. He enlisted in the navy during World War II. After receiving undergraduate and medical degrees from Northwestern University, he became an anesthesiologist and practiced at a major urban tertiary-care center, where he was a committed teacher of medical students and physicians entering the field of anesthesiology. The author is now retired and lives in Hartford, Connecticut. *Underwater Dreams* is his first novel.

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